



Councillor Leonard Crosbie
Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Our ref: PC/NBP/scw
Your ref:
Email:
Direct line:
Date: 7 September 2016

Dear Cllr Crosbie

Please find below my response to the West Sussex Joint Scrutiny Task and Finish Group, regarding Housing Provision for Care Leavers. I have provided my comments below against each of the recommendations made by the Joint Scrutiny Task and Finish Group. Please note that recommendations 3,4,5,7 are solely for consideration by West Sussex County Council as the statutory body with Corporate Parenting responsibilities.

Recommendation responses:

1. HDC's allocations policy allows flexibility through additional preference if required. Earlier this year the Housing Register and Nominations Policy was also amended to allow households that work in the district but may live outside of the district to still access the register. This should allow for care leavers that either have been resident in the district or may have secured employment in the area through their transition to adult life. Horsham District also benefits from having the Y Centre in Horsham that can meet many of the demands for younger person accommodation. This accommodation also benefits young people by providing additional support for them.
2. This is agreed. However we need to approach this with common sense with young people needing to be realistic on the limitations of accommodation availability in the District.
3. WSCC recommendation
4. WSCC recommendation
5. WSCC recommendation
6. Whilst it would be desirable to provide accommodation with communal living it is rarely available in permanent accommodation offers, unless identified through less secure tenures such as privately renting. As mentioned above, we have the benefit in Horsham of the Y Centre which whilst it doesn't have communal areas in the sense of shared kitchens and lounges for interaction, it does provide facilities and opportunities for residents to interact.

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7. WSCC recommendation
8. This would make sense and is in the advanced stages of implementation through the Care leavers protocol, that all District and Borough Councils in West Sussex have signed up to.
9. WSCC recommendation. During its implementation WSCC staff attended District and Borough staff team meetings to raise awareness of the protocol. It needs to be ensured that this happened with all District and Boroughs and a follow up/update on how it has been embedded may be useful.
10. This is agreed. The link officer at Horsham District Council would be Kendra Barrington, Senior Housing Officer. She is our homelessness lead.
11. It would make sense for the Task and Finish group to meet on a quarterly basis, at least for a twelve month period to identify any further learning or improvements that may be needed as the protocol and Task and Finish group recommendations bed in.
12. This would make sense, given the changes in Government. It would be prudent to remain vocal about risks to this client group.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Philip Circus". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Cllr Philip Circus
Cabinet Member for Housing and Public Protection